

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

July 27, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft Notice of Intent for BDCP
- Draft approach to evaluation of the Conservation Strategy Options
- Request for Qualifications for BDCP public outreach contract

Updates

- Steering Committee (SC) special session was convened on 7/18 to finalize flow parameters and values. Several changes were made and the values were approved.
- During the week of 7/16, Governor Schwarzenegger hosted several successful Water Week events in the Delta, at which some SC members were in attendance.
- On 7/24 the East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP was officially completed. Parts of that process are a good model for BDCP; that process took longer than anticipated but it did create partnerships among groups that were previously in conflict and increased capacity for collaborative management.
- Federal court case on OCAP, *NRDC v. Kempthorne*: Proceedings are ongoing and will be reviewed at next SC meeting 8/10.
- Composition of science advisors board has been set. The group will meet 9/12-9/14. Science facilitators will provide an update on Science Workshop planning at the next SC meeting.
- Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) update will be given at next meeting, at which Carl Wilcox will present a draft ERP restoration map.
- Ryan Broddrick is leaving DFG, and John McCamman, currently his alternate on BDCP, will assume his post as representative for SC.

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Notice of Intent will be reviewed again by attorneys from USFWS and NMFS and then will be sent to the Federal Register for review and posting.
- Hydrodynamic modeling process was well received by SC members and process approved.

Outreach Workgroup—Presented by Carla Nemeth.

1. Notice of Intent (NOI) to proceed with public scoping and preparation of EIR/EIS for BDCP. See Handouts and Associated Documents. This is a unique planning process so it was challenging to make it sufficiently detailed so as to be meaningful but also build in flexibility. Proposed action is identified as issuance by USFWS and NMFS of take permits and includes wording from the BDCP Planning Agreement and anticipated

milestones. Multiple drafts of this document have been reviewed by attorneys from PRE's and Fishery Agencies. If necessary, a supplemental NOI may be released once a specific plan becomes available. Laura King Moon presented several proposed changes that will be reviewed by attorneys from agencies. When those changes have been reviewed K. Scarborough, it will be forwarded to the federal agencies for submission to the Federal Register. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.

Discussion. There was a discussion about the scale of the BDCP; SC members agreed that the goal is to develop the BDCP as an NCCP, but that “offramps” should be available if the scope of the plan were to be narrowed and permits sought under CESA section 2081.

2. Public Outreach process contract Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released in the next week - See Handouts and Associated Documents. The RFQ will be posted and SC members can recommend communications/public relations firms to send the announcement to. The Workgroup hopes to have consultant hired by mid-September.

Conservation Strategy (CS) Workgroup

Options Evaluation Overview—Presented by Paul Cylinder.

See Handouts and Associated Documents. The goal of this evaluation is to compare the Options, not analyze them in detail. Additional analysis will occur later in the CS development process. The SAIC team will evaluate the extent to which each Option has the ability to meet the criteria. There are 17 criteria in four categories (biological, planning, durability/sustainability/adaptability, other resource impacts). The evaluation approach, broadly, will involve pulling together a range of information, developing a ranking of stressors, and potentially using DRERIP conceptual models. There will be a quantitative element, and the team has already started hydrodynamic modeling efforts. The handout for today's meeting describes each of the criteria and how the consultant team plans to address them. At the 8/10 SC meeting SAIC will provide an update on the Options evaluation process.

Discussion

NHI prepared a document (to be sent to the entire SC) suggesting further quantification of the criteria (“metrics”). P. Cylinder noted that Denise Reed recommended something similar (benchmarks/ levels/ performance scaling) and SAIC will include that type of metric in this evaluation.

The evaluation will cite scientific literature, grey literature, management documents, and personal communications with scientists.

Hydrodynamic Modeling—Presented by Armin Munevar and Chuck Hanson.

Presented powerpoint slides of output from initial runs of the hydrodynamic models (CalSIM, DSM2) for Option 1 across the range of parameters (“1a” and “1b”). The model outputs demonstrated that the flow parameter input values used represented a

sufficient range of output values and did not cause the models to “crash” (e.g., require more water than is available to the Delta).

Public Comments

No comments made today.

Next meeting

8/10/07 same time and location.

Introductions and Attendees

Introductions

Maria Rea (NOAA Fisheries)

Representatives

Karen Scarborough (The Resources Agency)

Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

Chuck Hanson (SAIC team)

Armin Munevar (SAIC team)

Randall Neudach (MWD)

John Engbring (USFWS)

John McCamman (DFG)

Russ Strach (USBR)

Jerry Johns (DWR)

Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)

Steve Rothert (NHI)

Anthony Saracino (TNC)

Greg Thomas (NHI)

Leo Winternitz (CALFED)

Tom Birmingham (Westlands)

Jeffrey Russell (Mirant)

Brent Walthall (KCWD)

Dan Nelson (SLDMWA)

Frank Michny (USBR)

Carla Wilcox (DFG)

Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)

Kenny Watkins (CFBF)

Cindy Darling (The Resources Agency)

Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)

Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)

By phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)

Bill Boyd (TNC)

John Curlew (?)

Carl Wilcox (DFG)
Paul Gilbert Snyder EBMUD)
Judy Bendix
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)

See also sign-in sheets for additional attendees